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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 12 March 20, 1956

Week ended March 17

	Page
Livestock Market Reviews	230
Livestock Market Receipts	232
Feeder and Stocker Statistics	232
Steer Sale Statistics	233
Estimated Slaughter and Meat Production	234
Slaughter at Major Centers	235
Estimated Percentage of Feeder and Stocker Cattle and Slaughter Cows in Salable Receipts	235
Cattle Prices	236
Hog Prices	237
Hog Purchase Statistics	238
Sheep and Lamb Prices	239
Wholesale Meat Trade Reviews	240
Wholesale Meat Prices	242
Wool Market Review	243

Special to this issue

Federally Inspected Slaughter by Regions, Calendar Year 1955 and Month of February 1956	244
Livestock Prices and Composite Meat Values, Feb. 1956	239
Meat and Meat Food Products Processed and Canned under Federal Inspection, Jan. 29-Mar. 3, 1956	245
Inspected Stocker and Feeder Shipments from Public Stockyards, February 1956	247
Stocker and Feeder Cattle and Sheep Received in Several Cornbelt States, February 1956	248
Storage Holdings of Meats and Lard, February 29, 1956	249

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Cattle marketings increased compared with the previous week but demand was good and fairly complete clearances were made each day. Fed steers brought steady to 50¢ higher prices at several markets, with a weaker trend at a few points. Prices of heifers also charted an uneven course but cows sold steady to 50¢ higher both at midwest and southwest terminals. Hog receipts were second smallest for any week since late last September and prices advanced for the third straight week. Late sales of butchers were unevenly 25¢ to $1.00 or more higher than a week earlier, many showing upturns of 50¢ to $1.00. The increased supply of slaughter lambs was in good demand at steady to $1.00 higher prices.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Receipts were a little larger than the previous week but were below the liberal run of two weeks ago. Trade for slaughter cattle was featured by fairly broad outlet despite a slow dressed beef trade and daily supplies were well cleared. Fed steers closed fully steady at Chicago, steady to 50¢ higher at a number of other midwest markets as well as Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. High-Choice and Prime steers were fully steady to firm at Omaha and Sioux City with some weakness on other grades while at S. St. Paul, closing prices on steers were steady to 50¢ off. Price trend on heifers was also slightly uneven, but cows showed a strong to 50¢ higher tendency, prices of Canners and Cutters at Chicago being on the highest levels since last summer. Bulls sold steady to 50¢ higher. Vealer prices advanced $1.00-3.00 at S. St. Paul, closing steady to $1.00 higher at other major centers.

Character of the steer marketings showed little change compared with recent weeks. Average weights continued much heavier than normal although at Chicago the weight dropped below the previous week when the average of 1168# equalled a 30-year record. Proportion of Good beef steers increased over the week before at Omaha, with a smaller percent of Choice. At Kansas City the reverse was true. At St. Louis National Stock Yards nearly 28% of the beef steers graded Choice compared with only 7.5% a year ago. The week's average weight of 1032# there was 39# heavier than a year ago. About 10% of the beef steers at Chicago graded Prime compared with 14% the previous week and less than 3% a year ago.

Prices of excessively heavy steers are still being discounted although the pressure is not as severe as some weeks ago when such kinds were running more freely than at present. Sales at Chicago included a few loads of Prime 1600-1700# steers at $20.00-21.50; Choice of about the same weights $18.00-19.25, high-Choice 1441# $20.50. Most popular weights of Choice and Prime steers are 1050 to around 1200# averages, a load of Prime 1147# steers reaching $25.50 at Chicago, equalling highest price paid there since December. Good and Choice steers bulked at Chicago from $16.50-21.00. High-Choice and Prime steers brought $21.00-23.00 at Omaha, a load Prime 1225# $23.25, with a few loads of Prime offerings at Sioux City from $21.00-22.50. Most Good and Choice steers at midwest markets other than Chicago cashed from $16.00-20.00. Slaughter of 1,483,530 cattle and 586,005 calves under Federal inspection in February were both new records for the month.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Small to moderate supplies of stocker and feeder cattle and calves at termina markets fell somewhat short of matching the numbers marketed either the previous week or a year ago. Outgo of steers from 10 markets was 15,707 head compared with 16,970 the week previous and 20,116 a year ago. Shipments of calves totaled 4,245 compared with 8,316 a year ago. A fairly large percent of the week's supply consisted of 500-700# yearling stockers, many of which were Good to Choice. Receipts included only moderate numbers of well-bred two-way cattle, and with feeder buyers continuing to proceed with considerable caution in the face of the current fat-

feeder price relationship, majority of the fleshy two-way kinds went for slaughter. Sub-normal water and pasture conditions in some western and southwestern areas were a matter of considerable concern and possibly a factor influencing the marketing of some cattle. However, in other areas the approach of a new grass season tended to stimulate demand. Thus, even though trading often was not overly active, prices were mostly steady to strong, instances 50¢ higher. Limited numbers usually represented the principal factor prompting a stronger trend. Good and Choice yearling stock steers ranged from $16.00 to $21.00, Medium $14.00-16.00. Buyers continued more than normally "dollar conscious" as reflected by rather sharp downward price revisions as weight of the stockers increased. At Kansas City, Choice 523# short yearlings brought $21.00 while 738# from the same shipment went at $18.50. Choice 378# steer calves reached $22.00, while high-Choice 463# turned at $21.60. At Omaha, Choice, fleshy 800# feeder steers reached $19.50, but feeder buyers generally were reluctant to pay above $17.00 for steers over 800#. At Chicago Choice 882# Colorados sold at $17.00.

HOGS

Movement of hogs slowed down substantially after reaching the largest volume of record for this time of year during the two preceding weeks. Current week's combined total was second smallest since the last week of September. Stimulated by good demand and smaller supplies, prices at most points advanced four out of the five market days to net the largest upturn for a week since late January. The advance placed prices on the highest levels since early February, prices strenghtening despite slowness in the fresh pork trade at some large wholesale centers. Demand for hogs was good as supplies were barely sufficient to meet minimum current slaughtering quotas, and prices advanced 25¢ to $1.00 or more, bulk of sales 50 to 75¢ higher. Weight of butchers was often a minor price determining factor, particularly for weights between 190 and 260#. which often sold within a spread of 50¢ or less at several terminal markets. Degree of finish continued of greater importance in determining price than weight. In spite of increased numbers, U. S. No. 1 and 2 grade lots brought 25-75¢, and in instances as much as $1.00 more than fatter or more highly mixed lots. Sharp advances of 85¢ to $1.00 or more featured the trade in Interior Iowa-Southern Minnesota. In Interior Indiana where movement was hampered by two snowfalls, prices closed 25¢ to 50¢ higher. Slaughter of 5,922,330 hogs under Federal inspection in the United States last month was with the exception of 1944, the largest February slaughter of record.

Stocker and feeder pigs were 50¢ higher than late last week. Good and Choice feeders sold at S. St. Paul from $10.00-11.00, few to $11.25, with 130-160# weights at Sioux City from $10.50 to mostly $11.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets were about 35% larger than the previous week but moderately below a year ago. Trading on slaughter lambs at midwest markets proved quite erratic. Prices ranged from steady to $1.00 higher except at Sioux City where late sales were 25¢ or more lower. Prices of slaughter ewes were steady to strong, while feeder lambs sold steady to 50¢ lower. Lambs over 110#, and in instances over 105#, were discounted from 50¢ to $2.00, the latter on lambs weighing around 130#. Good to Prime wooled lambs 110# down bulked from $18.50-21.00, with several loads up to $21.50 at Chicago, a few to $22.00 or highest since last October. Choice and Prime 115-132# offerings brought $18.75-20.00, while Cull to low-Good lambs ranged from $10.00-19.00. Good to Prime lambs with No. 2 to summer shorn pelts cleared from $17.00-20.25. A moderate showing of spring lambs was included at Kansas City and Fort Worth. Good to Prime native spring lambs cashed at Kansas City from $20.00-21.50, buyers there preferring weights under 100#, with heavierweights usually discounted. At Fort Worth, where prices showed a sharp upturn, Good to Prime 75-95# new crop offerings brought $19.00-21.50. Cull to

Continued on page 250.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955
Chicago	46,015	40,121	1,614	1,217	45,268	45,435	8,976	15,466
Cincinnati	4,140	3,560	1,131	1,227	18,471	13,005	488	156
Denver	12,896	12,242	472	778	3,002	3,041	27,104	27,399
Fort Worth	7,013	9,641	1,242	2,600	3,541	2,010	15,732	21,909
Indianapolis	9,247	7,980	932	1,400	57,036	53,840	1,236	869
Kansas City	21,339	18,628	1,737	1,997	11,983	8,875	6,485	3,038
Oklahoma City	12,968	10,869	864	1,492	5,578	4,980	2,112	3,731
Omaha	36,123	38,749	945	1,309	38,112	39,668	9,845	17,996
St. Joseph	13,441	13,436	969	981	26,379	22,420	3,007	2,506
St. Louis NSY	17,520	15,724	3,281	3,396	65,499	48,168	3,967	4,710
Sioux City	24,163	22,853	807	611	28,915	32,781	8,806	10,521
S. St. Paul	21,976	21,124	10,472	10,030	59,056	53,913	12,947	9,523
Total	226,841	214,927	24,466	27,038	362,840	328,136	100,725	117,824
Mar. 10, 1956	218,809		24,107		421,512		74,592	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Mar. 17, 1956	369,000	27,500
Mar. 10, 1956	424,000	22,200
Mar. 19, 1955	336,000	25,100

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Two months	
	Mar. 15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 17 1955	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1955	Jan.-Feb. 1956	Jan.-Feb. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	318	321	573	1,500	1,917	3,391	4,142
901-1000	1,295	1,411	1,925	5,513	8,202	11,608	16,813
801-900	2,541	2,476	3,389	10,199	10,804	26,382	26,171
701-800	2,905	3,505	3,199	11,081	10,966	28,349	28,492
501-700	8,648	9,257	11,030	32,465	26,110	67,233	70,928
Total steers 10 mkts.	15,707	16,970	20,116	60,758	57,999	136,963	146,546
Av. wts. " " "	701#	698#	706#	710#	738#	717#	721#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.88	$16.58	$20.36	$16.54	$19.71	$16.59	$19.76
" " " Chicago	17.68	16.29	20.54	16.86	20.24	16.81	20.02
" " " Ks. City	17.36	17.28	21.22	17.04	20.46	17.09	20.43
" " " Omaha	16.85	16.53	20.65	16.38	19.60	16.36	19.59
" " " S. St. Paul	15.31	14.65	18.73	15.03	18.10	15.05	17.59
" " " Sioux City	17.71	17.18	20.79	16.82	20.10	16.66	20.15
" " " Denver	15.00	15.73	20.97	16.11	20.12	17.53	22.09
" " " Ft. Worth	16.99	16.18	19.22	16.31	19.02	16.29	18.69
" " " Okla. City	16.16	16.07	19.21	16.40	19.12	16.33	18.46
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.60	16.49	20.09	16.41	19.24	16.38	19.41
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.25	16.06	19.09	16.20	18.81	16.14	18.61
Total calves–10 mkts.	4,245	4,766	8,316	18,931	15,937	53,071	65,126
" cows.							
heifers, bulls– " "	2,799	2,283	3,611	9,265	9,836	23,825	30,657

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	17 1955	15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	17 1955	15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	17 1955	15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	17 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	2917	3915	562	9.9	14.2	2.6	1324	1315	1199	22.02	21.73	30.76
Choice	16336	13926	11317	55.7	50.6	52.0	1193	1193	1137	19.36	19.04	25.48
Good	8177	8195	7686	27.9	29.8	35.3	1062	1082	1024	17.34	17.05	22.10
Com'l.	1379	1226	2044	4.7	4.4	9.4	978	1012	991	15.11	14.87	18.39
Utility	535	283	153	1.8	1.0	.7	996	1039	871	13.54	13.27	15.46
All grades	29344	27545	21762				1156	1168	1083	18.88	18.71	23.84
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	184	153	53	1.1	.9	.4	1260	1270	1175	22.12	22.28	29.19
Choice	8407	9325	7019	51.3	57.4	49.6	1157	1174	1122	19.04	18.47	24.33
Good	6602	5790	5866	40.2	35.7	41.4	1074	1048	1013	17.11	16.47	21.21
Com'l.	932	853	894	5.7	5.3	6.3	981	979	959	14.56	14.15	17.32
Utility	281	109	321	1.7	.7	2.3	920	922	926	12.68	11.74	14.80
All grades	16406	16230	14153				1111	1118	1062	18.01	17.61	22.53
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	369	333	20	3.9	3.7	.3	1366	1293	1259	20.84	21.40	28.00
Choice	4716	4351	3319	49.9	47.7	51.1	1197	1205	1129	18.82	18.51	23.79
Good	4109	3789	2662	43.4	41.6	41.0	1100	1103	1070	17.17	16.90	21.01
Com'l.	177	566	452	1.9	6.2	7.0	1054	987	1029	14.21	14.83	16.98
Utility	85	76	40	.9	.8	.6	889	952	923	12.64	12.80	14.28
All grades	9456	9115	6493				1157	1150	1097	18.10	17.75	22.20
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	80	--	--	1.0	--	--	1294	--	--	20.00	--	--
Choice	3197	2921	2189	44.0	38.6	48.3	1112	1090	1091	18.18	17.93	24.24
Good	3001	3553	1856	42.0	46.9	41.0	1050	1056	1008	16.93	16.60	21.19
Com'l.	827	1006	461	12.0	13.3	10.2	1030	1000	958	15.18	14.72	17.83
Utility	97	90	24	1.0	1.2	.5	980	1008	958	13.16	12.74	14.06
All grades	7202	7570	4530				1077	1061	1043	17.30	16.85	22.38
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	3	3	--	.1	.1	--	1068	1135	--	22.00	20.50	--
Choice	1906	1339	318	27.7	22.3	7.5	1130	1131	1102	18.42	18.30	24.92
Good	3339	2991	2525	48.5	49.9	59.2	1018	1036	1014	16.88	16.57	22.10
Com'l.	1488	1504	1242	21.6	25.1	29.1	962	945	938	15.02	14.82	19.07
Utility	146	157	178	2.1	2.6	4.2	793	897	875	13.15	12.83	15.77
All grades	6882	5994	4263				1032	1031	993	16.92	16.51	21.27
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	75	22	2	1.2	.4	--	1195	1196	1168	20.12	20.08	26.51
Choice	2478	2212	2141	41.6	35.6	42.0	1145	1123	1096	18.66	18.25	24.08
Good	2377	3200	2415	39.9	51.4	47.4	1073	1070	1018	17.07	16.74	20.64
Com'l.	896	713	466	15.0	11.5	9.2	1017	989	1058	15.02	14.75	16.63
Utility	137	73	70	2.3	1.1	1.4	918	887	848	12.94	12.64	14.21
All grades	5963	6220	5094				1092	1078	1052	17.44	17.06	21.71

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Mar. 15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 17 1955	Mar. 15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 17 1955	Mar. 15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 17 1955	Mar. 15 1956	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 17 1955
DENVER 1/												
Prime	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice	2946	3854	3106	67.5	68.4	78.8	1156	1146	1107	18.68	18.11	24.14
Good	1344	1620	750	30.8	28.7	19.0	1084	1065	1044	17.06	16.58	21.84
Com'l.	75	151	85	1.7	2.7	2.2	1076	951	938	14.19	13.45	16.35
Utility	--	12	--	--	.2	--	--	970	--	--	12.11	--
All grades	4365	5637	3941				1133	1117	1091	18.13	17.57	23.58

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
Mar. 17, 1956	361	202.9	143	15.0	1,449	191.6	265	13.0	422.5	47.8
Mar. 10, 1956	361	206.1	140	15.1	1,595	208.8	264	12.9	442.9	51.8
Mar. 3, 1956 1/	379	214.5	151	16.6	1,627	215.9	298	14.6	461.6	55.5
Mar. 19, 1955	324	174.9	144	14.7	1,234	170.1	265	13.2	372.9	43.6
Percentage change from:										
Mar. 10, 1956	0	- 2	+ 2	- 1	- 9	- 8	0	+ 1	- 5	- 8
Mar. 19, 1955	+11	+16	- 1	+ 2	+17	+13	0	- 2	+13	+10

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Mar. 17, 1956	1,015	562	190	105	232	132	104	49	14.2
Mar. 10, 1956	1,025	571	195	108	230	131	104	49	14.1
Mar. 3, 1956	1,020	566	200	110	230	133	104	49	14.3
Mar. 19, 1955	981	540	183	102	240	138	105	50	14.7

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 19 1955
Boston, New York City Area	13,548 *	10,707	11,227 *	12,361	60,668 *	48,362	44,096 *	45,673
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,532	7,482	1,181	1,144	31,686	27,191	2,995	2,498
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,385	15,876	7,683	7,691	120,327	90,986	10,574	10,266
Chicago Area	27,143	25,118	6,009	7,434	57,717	68,600	5,234	6,621
St. Paul-Wis Areas	30,420	28,070	34,665	34,462	125,338	105,854	12,437	12,883
St. Louis Area	14,806	12,198	3,971	4,026	104,642	84,428	6,817	7,467
Sioux City	11,582	7,273	254	6	26,339	19,589	4,286	5,354
Omaha Area	30,485	29,306	636	841	88,386	66,538	13,401	19,526
Kansas City	14,464	12,320	2850	2,863	40,224	29,264	9,834	9,053
Iowa-So. Minnesota	29,201	26,656	13,896	12,865	304,818	283,705	28,590	29,778
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,568	7,834	6,747	6,969	64,246	50,318	Not available	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,619	6,481	2,817	3,137	35,847	25,043	—	—
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	17,893	16,635	3,036	2,646	68,283	53,442	16,338	12,105
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	13,077	12,689	4,883	6,311	29,982	22,344	14,996	16,602
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	15,984	15,525	881	693	16,700	14,264	25,229	20,557
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	28,705	25,286	3,168	3,108	37,562	27,679	33,176	32,263
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,010	6,588	437	528	19,919	15,827	4,950	3,410
Total	294,422	266,044	104,341	107,085	1,232,684	1,033,434	232,953	234,056
Accumulation to date	3,315,310	3,108,818	1,137,332	1,129,975	13935,325	11588,643	2,749,170	2,677,333

*Partially estimated.

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
Mar. 16,1956	2	32	8	13	8	17	8	9	5	18	55	31	40
Mar. 9,1956	2	35	8	8	10	13	5	6	5	15	55	32	45
Mar. 18,1955	4	39	14	12	5	21	8	5	10	30	50	37	40
Slaughter cows													
Mar. 16,1956	6	8	11	10	13	8	27	10	12	12	12	18	25
Mar. 9,1956	7	8	11	9	17	10	30	15	8	15	11	18	15
Mar. 18,1955	10	9	11	12	15	6	30	24	12	18	14	22	33

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 19 1955	Mar. 17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 19 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers –									
Prime 900–1100#	23.52	23.32	30.45	21.78	21.72	28.28	23.25	23.18	29.12
1100–1300	23.45	23.22	31.30	21.52	21.25	28.42	23.00	22.92	29.75
Choice 900–1100	20.30	20.12	26.75	19.30	19.32	24.80	20.18	20.02	25.52
1100–1300	20.12	19.82	26.75	18.80	18.65	24.80	20.18	19.72	25.52
Good 900–1100	17.38	17.05	21.65	16.80	16.68	21.10	16.72	16.50	20.95
Com'l. All wts.	15.02	14.75	17.80	15.02	14.70	17.48	14.38	14.00	17.42
Heifers –									
Prime 600–800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	18.62	18.38	23.48	18.50	18.32	22.15	18.38	18.28	22.35
Good 500–900	16.58	16.35	19.98	16.52	16.34	18.98	16.25	16.18	18.45
Com'l. All wts.	14.42	14.20	16.75	14.50	14.08	16.15	13.88	13.70	14.95
Cows – All weights									
Commercial	13.00	12.68	13.88	12.78	12.32	13.25	12.95	12.00	13.68
Utility	11.75	11.48	12.35	11.92	11.30	12.02	11.62	11.08	12.10
Canner & Cutter	11.00	10.62	10.65	10.95	10.28	10.42	10.25	9.75	10.05
Bulls – All weights –									
Good	12.75	12.75	13.00	--	--	--	12.50	12.25	11.75
Utility & Commercial	14.84	14.84	15.08	13.62	13.40	12.75	13.44	13.18	13.44
Vealers – All weights –									
Choice & Prime	24.50	24.40	25.80	21.40	21.00	21.50	21.00	21.50	22.30
Com'l. & Good	19.00	19.00	20.80	17.70	17.00	16.00	16.50	16.50	17.50
Calves – 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.50	19.50	20.80	17.45	16.75	18.00	18.75	18.75	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.00	15.00	16.30	15.05	14.00	14.50	14.50	14.50	16.12
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers –									
Choice 500–800#	19.50	19.50	23.18	19.25	18.75	23.75	19.38	19.25	23.02
Good " "	16.50	16.50	20.18	17.50	17.25	20.75	17.25	17.12	20.48
Medium 500–1000	14.80	14.50	17.45	15.12	14.62	17.75	14.75	14.75	17.65
Heifers –									
Choice 500–750	16.65	16.50	18.90	17.00	16.50	19.50	16.75	16.62	18.65
Med. & Gd. " "	13.80	13.50	15.45	14.50	14.00	16.00	13.62	13.62	15.30
Cows – All weights –									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	12.00	11.75	12.00	11.38	10.88	12.00
Calves – 300–500# –									
Steers –									
Good & Choice	21.00	21.00	22.40	19.50	19.50	22.50	20.50	20.50	22.50
Heifers –									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	18.90	17.00	17.00	19.00	17.00	17.00	19.38

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	19 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	11.65	11.05	15.46	10.76	10.02	13.98	11.38	11.08	15.65
2 and 3	180-200	12.65	12.18	16.32	12.30	11.64	15.34	12.65	12.35	16.30
	200-220	12.75	12.22	16.35	12.79	12.13	15.59	12.73	12.48	16.30
	220-240	12.78	12.28	16.30	12.47	11.79	15.23	12.62	12.30	16.02
	240-270	12.58	12.02	15.98	12.05	11.39	14.62	12.25	12.00	15.55
	270-300	12.35	11.76	15.66	11.55	10.90	13.88	11.90	11.55	15.05
Sows –										
	300-330#	11.65	11.40	14.82	11.25	10.60	13.35	10.92	10.95	13.72
	360-400	11.15	10.95	14.52	10.78	10.13	12.73	10.62	10.75	13.50
	450-550	10.58	10.35	13.85	10.13	9.51	11.62	9.82	9.75	13.20
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	--	--	--	12.30	12.10	16.20	--	--	--
2 and 3	180-200	13.30	12.88	16.36	13.00	12.72	16.40	13.12	12.22	16.08
	200-220	13.30	12.88	16.36	13.05	12.78	16.28	13.30	12.70	16.18
	220-240	13.30	12.88	16.15	12.88	12.61	16.02	13.28	12.68	16.10
	240-270	12.92	12.40	15.68	12.41	12.28	15.58	12.98	12.28	15.55
	270-300	12.48	11.80	15.08	12.09	11.75	15.20	12.42	11.70	14.92
Sows –										
	300-330#	11.72	11.12	--	11.38	10.72	14.50	11.62	10.95	14.18
	360-400	11.28	10.82	14.42	11.00	10.35	14.25	11.25	10.62	13.72
	450-550	10.75	10.20	13.90	10.25	9.60	13.50	10.42	9.77	12.88
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	12.50	12.30	16.02	13.38	12.90	17.06	14.25	14.00	18.25
2 and 3	180-200	13.40	13.10	16.15	13.78	13.35	17.09	14.75	14.50	18.50
	200-220	13.40	13.10	16.05	13.78	13.35	17.09	14.75	14.50	18.50
	220-240	13.40	13.10	15.90	13.50	13.10	16.69	14.50	14.00	18.25
	240-270	12.95	12.60	15.45	12.88	12.45	16.09	13.25	13.00	17.50
	270-300	12.22	11.68	14.68	12.00	11.69	15.44	13.00	12.75	16.88
Sows –										
	300-330#	11.28	10.72	14.28	10.29	10.12	14.78	12.25	12.00	16.12
	360-400	11.02	10.42	13.65	10.29	10.12	14.75	11.00	10.75	15.50
	450-550	10.40	9.90	13.10	9.17	9.00	12.75	10.00	9.50	14.88
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	10.40	10.25	16.00	--	--	--	12.75	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 17,1956	12.53	12.70	12.94	12.94	12.87	13.00	12.64	12.58	12.72
	Mar. 10,1956	11.99	12.39	12.41	12.35	12.24	12.45	12.33	12.13	12.27
	Mar. 19,1955	15.95	16.03	15.98	15.63	15.28	15.87	15.60	15.91	15.77
Sows	Mar. 17,1956	10.95	10.67	10.79	11.13	10.71	10.93	10.63	10.06	10.71
	Mar. 10,1956	10.64	10.05	10.45	10.62	10.21	10.54	10.18	9.97	10.32
	Mar. 19,1955	14.24	13.91	14.38	13.87	13.24	14.11	13.34	13.32	13.76
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 17,1956	236	219	217	227	234	216	220	224	224
	Mar. 10,1956	238	218	218	229	234	218	224	222	225
	Mar. 19,1955	245	220	224	249	252	228	233	226	235
Sows	Mar. 17,1956	422	408	400	403	411	394	394	449	415
	Mar. 10,1956	432	420	417	411	410	391	406	435	420
	Mar. 19,1955	437	412	407	436	422	398	392	449	423
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 17,1956	34900	58094	10857	33032	26469	23866	52739	51715	291672
	Mar. 10,1956	42903	66212	10986	37856	33011	29086	68832	59019	347905
	Mar. 19,1955	37395	43344	8135	34936	28279	20673	47028	49007	268797
Sows	Mar. 17,1956	5258	3469	729	2806	1153	1522	2876	3505	21318
	Mar. 10,1956	5085	3445	596	2830	1134	1439	3059	3775	21363
	Mar. 19,1955	3460	1954	404	2834	1323	1173	2745	2481	16374
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Mar. 17,1956	13	6	6	8	4	6	5	6	7
	Mar. 10,1956	11	5	5	7	3	5	4	6	6
	Mar. 19,1955	8	4	5	8	4	5	6	5	6

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Mar. 17, 1956	$15.24	$12.65	+$2.59
Mar. 10, 1956	15.25	12.18	+ 3.07
Mar. 19, 1955	17.93	16.32	+ 1.61

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Mar. 17, 1956	12.53	130.5	9.6
Mar. 10, 1956	11.99	127.6	9.4
Mar. 19, 1955	15.95	148.5	10.7

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS
In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Mar. 17, 1956	21.15	20.35	20.42	--	19.70	--	--
	Mar. 10, 1956	20.60	20.10	19.40	--	19.60	--	--
	Mar. 19, 1955	22.45	22.15	22.12	--	22.16	--	21.50
Good and Choice	Mar. 17, 1956	20.42	19.50	19.30	20.10*	18.80	17.40	18.00
	Mar. 10, 1956	19.75	19.30	18.45	18.30	18.78	17.25	18.75
	Mar. 19, 1955	21.58	21.15	21.12	22.75*	20.88	21.00	20.25
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Mar. 17, 1956	7.75	7.00	5.25	--	9.50	7.00	7.00
	Mar. 10, 1956	7.75	6.50	5.15	--	9.50	7.00	--
	Mar. 19, 1955	8.25	8.50	7.85	--	9.50	--	--
Cull and Utility	Mar. 17, 1956	6.00	5.00	4.00	--	6.92	4.50	--
	Mar. 10, 1956	5.95	4.50	4.10	--	7.12	4.50	--
	Mar. 19, 1955	6.75	6.75	6.35	--	6.38	--	--
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Mar. 17, 1956	--	18.50	--	16.45	18.00	--	--
	Mar. 10, 1956	--	--	--	16.75	18.00	--	--
	Mar. 19, 1955	--	21.00	--	18.95	20.75	--	--

*Spring lambs.

LIVESTOCK PRICES AT CHICAGO COMPARED WITH WHOLESALE AND COMPOSITE RETAIL MEAT PRICES AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MEAT VALUES AT NEW YORK

	Steers			Lambs			Hogs		
	Feb. 1956	Jan. 1956	Feb. 1955	Feb. 1956	Jan. 1956	Feb. 1955	Feb. 1956	Jan. 1956	Feb. 1955
	Dollars per 100 pounds								
Live animal prices									
Chicago 1/.....	21.77	22.25	29.92	20.39	19.12	22.06	12.75	11.99	16.90
Wholesale meat prices, New York 2/	35.62	37.12	47.17	37.04	38.18	42.21	--	--	--
	Cents per pound								
Composite retail meat prices, New York 3/	55.84	58.51*	70.13	51.22	51.05	57.92	--	--	--
	Value of carcass meat from 100# live animal (dollars)								
Wholesale-New York 4/	21.37	22.27	28.30	18.15	18.71	20.68	18.10	17.48*	21.60
Retail - New York 5/	26.24	27.50*	33.24	24.18	24.10	27.34	22.95	22.76*	28.01

1/ Av. Choice and Prime steers, 900-1100 lb., Choice and Prime lambs, and U. S. No. 1, 2 and 3, 220-240# hogs.

2/ Av. Choice and Prime steer beef, 600-800 lb., and Choice and Prime lamb.

3/ Composite av. of semi-monthly retail quotations on various cuts (incl. lard) combined in proportion to their respective yields from live weight.

4/ 60 lb. of beef carcass, 49 lb. of lamb carcass and 60.43 lb.** of principal hog products consisting of smoked, skinned hams, bacon, picnics, fresh loins, Boston butts, spareribs, and carton lard combined in proportion to their respectiv yields from live weight. **Changed effective January 1956.

5/ 47.0 lb.** of beef cuts, 47.2 lb. of lamb cuts and 58.56 lb.** of principal hog products, incl. lard. **Changed effective January 1956.

*Revised.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Movement of fresh meats was slow and largely a repetition of the previous week's inactivity. Supplies of most classes were in excess of immediate trade requirements, particularly steer beef and veal, and to a lesser extent lamb. Moderate fresh pork loin receipts were well in balance with the current demand. Steer beef receipts were fully normal, including some carryover from the preceding week, cow beef small to moderate, veal normal to liberal, including carried over stocks, lamb about normal but somewhat reduced from a week earlier. Steer beef closed weak to $1.50 lower; veal and calf steady to $2.00 lower; cow beef and lamb steady; pork loins steady to $1.00 higher; other fresh pork cuts steady to weak, with some sales of Boston butts $1.00 lower.

Prime steer carcasses were represented rather sparingly as majority of offerings graded Good and Choice. Comparatively few were under 700 lbs., with some, particularly in the Prime grade, weighing up to 950 lbs. and above. Prices of Prime steers were unchanged although carrying a weak undertone due to the excessive finish of most offerings. High-Commercial cow carcasses which were in limited volume were steady to strong. Otherwise there was little price change despite higher replacement costs.

Stocks of veal, including all grades and weights, were usually excessive, although fresh unloads in the upper grades found a fairly dependable outlet. Those carried over from the preceding week and lower grades of fresh unloads sold at discounts. Buying interest in lamb centered largely on weights under 50# which were offered sparingly, and on hindsaddles, while chucks were hard to move and accumulated in many coolers.

The advance in pork loin prices was due more to higher replacement costs than to any particular activity in trading. At the same time, receipts were only moderate and dealers were able to maintain a firm price stand. Other fresh pork cuts were mostly steady, except for some weakness in Boston butts.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Changes in volume of slaughter were too small to affect the supply situation. Prime steer beef was scarce with bulk grading Good and Choice. Lamb weights were seasonally heavy, mostly 50-65#. Very few calf carcasses were offered, veal making up bulk of the offerings in these classes. Trading at wholesale levels was only fair at best for both kosher and non-kosher offerings except for a market improvement in the movement of lamb foresaddles after mid-week. Steer ribs and loins sold dependably but other wholesale non-kosher cuts were slow. Trade on veal was very draggy, lamb fair. Fresh pork loin prices advanced late in the week. In kosher meats, steer arm chucks, plates and briskets moved slowly at weak to lower prices, with a similar trend on veal. Kosher lamb foresaddles brought strong to higher prices.

Prices of steer hindquarter beef showed little change although prices of wholesale cuts reflected unevenness, with best demand for short loins and ribs. Arm chucks and rounds were under pressure. However, prices of rounds tended to strengthen late as trading improved. Best demand was for Prime offerings, together with lighterweight cuts from carcasses under 750#. Kosher forequarters and related wholesale cuts, except ribs, found a narrow outlet at uneven prices, depending on weight and selection.

Buyers showed little interest in veal and calf carcasses or hindsaddles, necessitating price reductions, particularly on grades below Choice in weights under 90#. Daily clearances were incomplete as supplies exceeded demand. Lamb carcasses from 50-70# made up a major portion of daily kills. Weight was an important price determining factor. Trading was somewhat improved over that of the previous week,

Continued on page 244.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

The week's moderate to normal aggregate supply of fresh meats was fully sufficient for the demand. Good and Choice grades were again featured in the steer beef supply. Steer carcasses over 700# appeared in above normal volume. Veal offerings graded mainly Commercial to average-Choice. Supply of lamb and fresh pork cuts was reduced. Lamb 55-65# predominated, these grading mostly Choice and below. Lamb and pork trade was rather slow, although volume buyers were fairly active, particularly on pork. Prices of live lambs and hogs advanced, and this along with the smaller supply influenced higher replacement costs. Steer and heifer beef sold mostly steady in a slow trade. Squarecut chucks and rounds were in best demand. Trade was draggy on ribs and loins, especially ribs over 35#. Sellers found it difficult to break beef on a profitable basis, particularly Choice lighterweight carcasses. Taking advantage of all available outlets for beef cuts helped sellers keep daily carryovers close to normal. Veal trading was dull all week. Lamb and pork clearances at wholesale will be good, veal and beef only fair. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef mostly steady to 50¢ lower; Commercial to Choice veal steady, Prime about $1.00 higher; lamb $1.00-1.50 higher; pork loins 8-16# $1.50-2.00 higher; spareribs 3# down steady to $1.00 higher; Boston butts 4-8# 50¢ lower.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks brought mostly $26.50-28.00; Prime steer rounds $40.00-41.00, Choice $37.00-38.50; Prime loins $80.00-84.00, Choice $55.00-60.00; Prime ribs $55.00-57.00, Choice $37.00-40.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $27.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles realized $45.00-52.00; legs $40.00-47.00; loins $54.00-60.00, hotel ribs $47.00-52.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of most steer carcasses were fully adequate for the demand at all points on the West Coast. Choice carcasses under 600# were scarce at Los Angeles, while 700-800# were in smallest supply at San Francisco. Cow beef was in limited volume at all points, with veal limited at Los Angeles and calf at other points. Bulk of lamb carcasses weighed over 55#. A few spring lamb carcasses appeared at San Francisco and Los Angeles. Supply of fresh and cured pork cuts was liberal in California and moderate in the Northwest, with slab bacon somewhat excessive in the Los Angeles area. Trading was slow in Los Angeles, fairly active in San Francisco and the Northwest. Compared to the previous week's close: Steer beef strong to $2.00 higher; cow beef steady to $1.00 higher; veal $2.00-4.00 lower in the Northwest and steady at San Francisco; calf steady in California and nominal in the Northwest; lamb mostly steady, altho instances weak at San Francisco and $1.00 lower in the Northwest; fresh pork mainly steady; smoked meats and lard steady except smoked skinned hams $2.00-3.00 higher in California and bacon $2.00-3.00 lower in that State.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# cashed mostly from $30.00-34.00, 700-800# $29.00-32.00; Good 500-700# $28.00-32.00; Commercial $26.00-30.00; Utility $25.00-28.00. Commercial cow beef sold from $24.00-27.00, few softboned carcasses to $28.00; mature Utility $22.00-26.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-23.00. Good and Choice veal under 150# brought $40.00-48.00 in the Northwest; Good $42.00-44.00 at San Francisco; Good and Choice calf under 200# $37.00-39.00 at Los Angeles, Commercial and Good $32.00-36.00 at San Francisco. A few spring lamb carcasses sold in California from $42.00-44.00; Choice and Prime old crop lamb under 58# $33.00-40.00, Good down to $30.00 at Los Angeles. Fresh pork loins under 16# brought $34.00-41.00; shoulders under 16# $23.00-27.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $45.00-53.00; slab bacon under 10# $30.00-40.00; few forced sales down to $25.00 in Los Angeles; sliced 1# packages $34.00-42.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	Mar. 10 1956	19 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	38.00	38.00	--	36.80	37.00	49.80	--	--	--
700–800	36.00	36.00	50.70	36.80	37.00	49.80	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	32.50	32.95	39.75	33.00	32.50	40.50
600–700	33.65	34.40	43.10	32.50	32.95	41.65	31.80	31.00	39.00
Good 350–600	30.00	31.00	37.50	28.05	27.95	34.20	30.50	30.50	38.75
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	33.50	26.25	26.75	31.40	28.00	28.00	36.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	26.00	26.00	28.50	--	--	---	26.00	26.00	30.00
Utility	24.00	24.00	25.00	--	--	--	23.00	23.00	27.00
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	40.50	41.00	43.00	40.90	41.30	42.30	--	--	--
Choice " "	34.70	35.50	36.50	36.00	36.80	39.30	--	--	--
Good " "	30.50	31.00	31.50	33.00	33.80	35.00	43.00	43.00	41.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	37.00	37.10	44.50	37.05	36.85	43.00	38.00	38.00	44.00
50–60	35.00	35.20	44.50	34.30	33.90	41.20	37.00	37.00	41.50
Choice 40–50	37.00	37.10	42.00	37.05	36.85	42.00	38.00	38.00	43.00
50–60	35.00	35.20	42.00	34.30	33.90	39.20	35.00	35.00	41.00
Good all wts.	35.00	35.00	40.50	33.60	33.40	38.40	35.50	35.50	39.50
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	33.70	33.60	39.50	33.20	31.75	38.50	38.50	38.00	45.00
10–12 "	33.70	33.60	39.50	33.20	31.75	38.50	39.50	39.00	43.00
12–16 "	32.90	32.70	37.80	32.30	31.35	37.50	39.00	39.00	41.00
Butts 4–8 "	28.40	29.10	32.40	24.30	25.10	29.60	34.00	34.00	39.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	47.50	47.00	48.00	50.20	50.15	46.85	50.00	50.00	51.00
16–18 "	46.00	44.90	43.00	49.50	49.20	45.75	48.90	47.50	48.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	48.80	48.65	45.90	--	--	--
Bacon, smk.. slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	31.45	31.25	44.75	38.00	40.00	53.00
8–10 "	32.50	32.50	38.00	29.20	30.00	41.30	36.00	38.00	46.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	36.50	36.50	47.50	36.00	36.30	50.00	40.00	42.50	51.00
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	24.00	24.00	32.00	28.80	29.00	33.15	28.00	30.00	34.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	13.50	13.50	14.00	11.75	11.75	11.50	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.00	16.00	15.50	14.38	14.75	14.95	17.25	17.25	17.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	25.00	25.00	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Trade continued very dull in the Boston Wool market as approximately eight cars of odd lots consisting of various graded and original bag greasy worsted wools were sold. Prices held about unchanged for Territory half blood and ¼ blood wools while medium Fleeces appeared definitely easier. All other classifications held nominally unchanged with vertical mill buyers the principal factors in the local market.

Private Australian cables early in the week showed Merinos firm with the trade animated. Japan was the dominating influence with the Continent and local mills supporting. South African prices were about steady and unchanged under general competition while New Zealand quotes appeared to have firmed with Continental interests the principal buyers. Trade at the South American markets continued quiet with quotations unchanged.

Fleece Wools - A mixed car of early shorn Ohio 56/58s and 50/54s good French combing and staple wool at 54¢ in the grease cost around $1.04 and 96½¢ clean basis. At midweek, country buyers were offering 40¢ grease basis to the growers.

Territory Wools - Graded 60/62s good French combing and staple Territory wool sold at $1.22 and $1.23 clean basis while a lot of 60/62s clothing wool brought about $1.10 and 50/54s good French combing and staple moved at $1.08 clean. A very small lot of graded low ½ blood sold around 90¢ clean basis. An original bag lot of bulk fine and bulk good French combing and staple Territor wool from the new clip brought about $1.30 clean basis. In and around Roswell, New Mexico, original bag wools sold recently from 32¢ to 52½¢ in the grease. Short fine wools were estimated to cost from $1.10 to $1.16 clean, delivered Boston while bulk good French combing and staple fine wool was estimated from $1.22 to $1.30 landed, while crossbred wools ranged from $1.10 to $1.23. Early shorn Idaho wool of bulk medium grades sold at 46½¢ grease basis to the growers. Other clips brought 41¢ and 41½¢ to the growers.

Texas Wools - Turnover of greasy Texas wools in the local market was practically at a standstill while the movement in Texas was dormant.

Mohair - A little Mohair was sold in Texas early in the week at 81½¢ for Adult and 91½¢ for Kid Mohair to the warehouse. The small quantity of Kid hair at 91½¢ was not considered indicative of the general price level, according to some dealers.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on March 15, 1956 that approximately 154,000 pounds of C.C.C.- owned wool were sold, from bids received on a total of about 5,000,000 pounds. The grades, quantities, and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
O.B. fall Texas, average to short length	98,947	$1.005-$1.055
Scoured shorn 3/8s fleece staple and good French	36,500	1.08 - 1.1225
" " 48/50s " " " " "	11,500	1.0525
" " 58s woolen type 12 months	7,185	1.015 -1.0225

Foreign Wools - Montevideo shippers were asking 66¢ grease basis for super skirted 60s and 58/60s for shipment. Buenos Aires shippers were asking 83½¢ clean basis for November second clips with a bid of 82¢ received while B.A. 58 fleeces were quoted at 84¢ clean fibers present. Cabled reports at week's end showed Australian fine wools firm and unchanged while crossbred wools were considered holding unchanged from last week. New Zealand quotes follow: Type 93/94 at .845; 834/835 at 84¢; 100/101 at .835; 107/108 at 82¢; 114/115 at 81¢ and 128/129 at 80¢. South Africa type 27 at $1.15; 28 at $1.12; 32 at $1.12 and 33 at $1.10. Above quotes based on clean U.S. yields in bond.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS
Calendar Year 1955 - with comparisons
(thousand head)

Region	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep & lambs	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
N. Atlantic States.....	1,508	1,529	1,333	1,270	5,903	5,163	2,635	2,578
S. Atlantic States.....	560	511	424	428	2,467	2,207	1	3
N. C. States - Eastern.	3,778	3,784	2,366	2,394	14,557	13,134	1,439	1,448
N. C. States-N.Western.	5,371	5,094	1,167	1,142	24,423	20,364	4,286	4,420
N. C. States-S.Western.	1,927	1,943	420	531	5,903	4,858	1,187	1,252
S. Central States.....	2,330	2,297	1,228	1,289	4,245	3,422	1,261	1,181
Mountain States.....	1,169	1,078	86	83	1,087	942	1,294	1,126
Pacific States.....	2,413	2,240	476	436	2,786	2,204	2,281	2,140
Total.....	19,055	18,476	7,499	7,573	61,370	52,894	14,383	14,148

Other animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, (number of head): Year 1955; Horses 196,106; Goats 88,519; Year 1954, Horses 247,258; Goats 84,575.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS
February 1956 - with comparisons
(thousand head)

Region	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep & lambs	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
N. Atlantic States.....	124	108	113	93	542	447	194	199
S. Atlantic States.....	40	35	24	21	251	188	--	--
N. C. States - Eastern.	307	268	204	184	1,369	1,132	111	110
N. C. States-N.Western.	433	375	103	87	2,363	1,794	393	362
N. C. States-S.Western.	142	132	23	25	553	390	90	94
S. Central States.....	141	142	78	68	493	333	83	74
Mountain States.....	99	86	7	6	95	83	127	99
Pacific States.....	198	168	34	32	255	210	165	161
Total.....	1,484	1,313	586	517	5,922	4,638	1,163	1,080

Other animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, (number of head): Feb. 1956; Horses 13,697; Goats 3,723: Feb. 1955, Horses 13,712; Goats 5,612.

Data furnished by Agricultural Research Service.

NEW YORK LOCALLY DRESSED FRESH MEATS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 240.

particularly for hindsaddles. Kosher lamb foresaddles recovered the previous week's decline and sold readily at advances of $2.00-3.00 or more.

Expanded buying interest for fresh pork cuts apparent at the close of previous week carried over into the current week's trading and prices turned upward in line with advancing replacement costs. A good clearance was effected.

MEATS AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED
UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Product	Week ended Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 25 1956	Mar. 3 1956
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Placed in cure -					
Beef	3,477	3,105	2,624	3,297	3,569
Pork	68,528	69,923	67,956	67,795	78,160
Other	38	48	15	22	29
Smoked and/or dried -					
Beef	1,045	968	911	1,133	1,428
Pork	48,023	47,652	46,444	44,384	50,455
Cooked meat -					
Beef	1,390	1,346	1,343	1,421	1,458
Pork	5,369	5,282	4,982	5,158	6,276
Other	99	72	57	78	60
Sausage -					
Fresh finished	5,239	5,031	4,934	4,756	5,175
To be dried or semi-dried	2,735	2,638	2,629	2,044	2,592
Franks, wieners	10,776	10,955	10,291	9,891	11,124
Other, smoked or cooked	10,953	10,934	10,355	10,011	10,845
Loaf, head cheese, chili, jellied products	3,413	3,566	3,327	4,205	3,445
Steaks, chops, roasts	13,190	12,773	12,631	13,244	14,244
Meat extract	7	10	32	6	11
Sliced bacon	18,647	18,372	17,689	17,518	19,141
Sliced, other	3,018	3,017	2,834	2,703	2,843
Hamburger	3,894	3,659	3,234	3,025	2,886
Miscellaneous meat product	1,842	2,021	1,777	2,019	1,688
Lard, rendered	45,669	46,417	45,672	44,189	52,699
Lard, refined	35,890	32,185	33,154	32,952	34,235
Oleo stock	2,206	2,089	2,028	1,988	2,097
Edible tallow	3,374	3,361	3,667	3,637	3,757
Rendered pork fat -					
Rendered	2,323	2,244	2,294	2,260	2,763
Refined	1,223	1,651	1,151	1,332	1,434
Compound containing animal fat	10,384	11,702	11,132	10,211	12,660
Oleomargarine " " "	1,249	1,283	1,430	1,519	1,345
Canned product (for civilian use and Dept. of Defense)	53,912	53,955	58,017	47,096	54,770
Total 1/	357,916	356,258	352,610	337,894	381,191

1/ This figure represents "inspection pounds" as some of the products may have been inspected and recorded more than once due to having been subjected to more than one distinct processing treatment, such as curing first, then canning.

MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - Continued

Product	Week ended - 1956									
	Feb. 4		Feb. 11		Feb. 18		Feb. 25		Mar. 3	
	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.
Canned product (For civilian use only)	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Luncheon meat	5,105	2,926	5,535	2,776	5,080	2,873	4,913	2,397	5,647	2,894
Canned hams	6,476	130	6,652	138	6,360	105	5,899	118	6,419	95
Corned beef hash	21	2,008	255	2,102	105	1,388	66	1,412	14	1,448
Chili con carne	126	3,889	84	3,244	280	3,972	94	1,993	71	2,640
Viennas	39	1,058	22	1,213	46	1,239	50	1,092	23	1,286
Franks, wieners in brine	1	30	1	48	1	59	6	52	8	56
Deviled ham	--	104	--	163	--	161	--	206	--	252
Other potted or deviled meat food products	--	1,157	--	858	--	844	--	703	--	816
Tamales	26	848	71	502	77	621	45	653	21	804
Sliced dried beef	13	74	3	92	3	98	2	89	3	95
Chopped beef	--	303	--	460	--	356	--	413	--	634
Meat stew (all products)	25	1,463	7	2,168	47	2,070	16	2,121	39	2,274
Spaghetti meat products	74	1,969	21	1,121	36	1,210	19	733	31	1,149
Tongue (other than pickled)	31	31	13	40	8	41	18	41	27	36
Vinegar pickled products	238	367	202	392	212	353	171	339	236	395
Bulk sausage	--	169	--	137	--	212	--	304	--	315
Hamburger, rstd. or corned beef meat & gravy	146	2,829	193	3,277	130	3,851	199	3,741	59	4,614
Soups	368	13,531	901	11,081	459	16,897	813	9,375	548	12,855
Sausage in oil	58	75	91	54	93	70	96	67	79	81
Tripe	--	68	--	119	--	118	--	65	3	71
Brains	--	64	--	54	--	78	--	44	--	55
Canned loins and picnics	607	26	733	15	612	20	732	13	734	21
All other with meat and/or meat byproducts -										
20% or more	125	1,608	71	2,149	83	1,713	44	1,335	36	1,214
Less than 20%	90	4,653	64	5,104	103	4,750	107	5,176	81	5,004
Total	13,571	39,379	14,919	37,308	13,735	43,098	13,290	32,483	14,078	39,104

Note: See footnote at bottom of page 245.

INSPECTED STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS FROM PUBLIC STOCKYARDS FEBRUARY 1956 - WITH COMPARISONS

Cattle and Calves

Market origin	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1955	State destination	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1955
	Number	Number		Number	Number
Baltimore	764	1,902	Pennsylvania	3,955	5,590
Chicago	4,249	4,894	Ohio	5,942	4,592
Cincinnati	707	504	Indiana	5,830	5,237
Clovis	7,152	9,410	Illinois	19,186	17,583
Denver	9,591	13,397	Michigan	1,515	2,352
Detroit	530	1,117	Wisconsin	499	310
Fort Worth	6,815	11,360	Minnesota	7,139	6,082
Indianapolis	2,788	2,816	Iowa	35,151	34,183
Kansas City	29,476	25,074	Missouri	19,983	14,005
Lancaster	3,284	4,714	South Dakota	5,542	6,750
Los Angeles	3,784	5,120	Nebraska	12,027	22,827
Louisville	2,254	1,760	Kansas	14,337	17,993
Nashville	1,061	1,523			
Ogden	8,897	5,245	Maryland	624	1,359
Oklahoma City	18,224	14,985	Virginia	770	927
Omaha	14,271	17,052	Kentucky	2,057	2,323
St. Louis area 1/	6,816	7,074	Tennessee	2,016	2,603
San Antonio	13,621	12,397			
Sioux City	18,875	19,309	Oklahoma	10,836	9,873
Sioux Falls	7,857	7,843	Texas	19,308	20,199
S. St. Joseph	6,863	7,467	Colorado	9,592	9,566
S. St. Paul	5,613	7,169	Utah	1,997	1,695
Wichita	7,332	7,571	California	19,329	17,117
All other inspected 2/	41,568	45,522	All other 2/	24,757	32,059
Total 2/	222,392	235,225	Total 2/	222,392	235,225

Sheep and Lambs

Chicago	574	323	Ohio	515	925
Denver	17,403	18,447	Indiana	612	1,288
Fort Worth	3,920	6,207	Illinois	3,476	2,822
Kansas City	3,804	3,250	Michigan	780	1,351
Louisville	--	--	Wisconsin	1,235	599
Ogden	1,508	1,822	Minnesota	9,590	14,142
Omaha	2,811	2,891	Iowa	14,617	13,044
St. Louis area 1/	375	808	Missouri	13,718	18,091
Salt Lake City	2,680	4,982	South Dakota	4,023	5,150
Sioux City	4,782	5,665	Nebraska	13,098	10,198
Sioux Falls	2,634	2,578	Kansas	687	4,430
S. St. Joseph	11,782	14,739	Kentucky	--	1,922
S. St. Paul	8,827	10,288	Texas	2,455	1,712
			Colorado	9,509	4,493
			Utah	187	147
All other			California	2,469	463
inspected 2/	21,527	13,639	All other 2/	5,656	4,862
Total 2/	82,627	85,639	Total 2/	82,627	85,639

1/ Includes St. Louis National Stockyards, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo.

2/ Excludes Hawaii.

Compiled by the Agricultural Estimates Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, from Inspection Records of Animal Quarantine Branch, Agricultural Research Service.

Stocker and feeder cattle and sheep received in several Corn Belt States 1/
February 1956, with comparisons

Cattle and Calves

State	Public Stock Yards		Direct		Total		Cumulative Total	
	February		February		February		Jan.-Feb. incl.	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Ohio	5,603	5,016	3,627	592	9,230	5,608	19,299	15,471
Indiana	4,463	5,278	1,283	1,348	5,746	6,626	12,535	15,875
Illinois	16,792	20,689	30,763	19,687	47,555	40,376	112,405	107,885
Michigan	1,474	2,437	776	677	2,250	3,114	7,788	7,180
Wisconsin	996	409	385	87	1,381	496	3,905	1,332
Minnesota	7,494	5,961	6,018	5,535	13,512	11,496	36,551	37,075
Iowa	46,466	38,294	25,833	19,084	72,299	57,378	158,633	158,602
South Dakota	6,715	6,444	637	2,057	7,352	8,501	13,889	19,968
Nebraska	12,710	22,040	10,543	15,508	23,253	37,548	66,735	101,728
Total 9 States	102,713	106,568	79,865	64,575	182,578	171,143	431,740	465,116

Sheep and Lambs

Ohio	515	925	433	706	948	1,631	3,217	8,578
Indiana	297	2,154	1,041	620	1,338	2,774	3,582	6,227
Illinois	3,088	3,251	6,890	6,145	9,978	9,396	25,813	29,161
Michigan	779	1,351	---	537	779	1,868	2,070	3,606
Wisconsin	1,235	599	---	716	1,235	1,315	1,235	2,529
Minnesota	10,776	12,428	8,487	6,504	19,263	18,932	38,917	50,897
Iowa	13,113	12,785	35,036	30,540	48,149	43,325	145,363	143,324
South Dakota	4,168	4,139	7,692	6,477	11,860	10,616	20,353	27,651
Nebraska	16,771	10,723	10,690	34,300	27,461	45,023	40,627	89,085
Total 9 States	50,742	48,355	70,269	86,545	121,011	134,900	281,177	361,058

1/ Data in this report are obtained from offices of State Veterinarians. Under "Public Stockyards" are included stockers and feeders which were bought at stockyards markets. Under "Direct" are included stockers and feeders coming from other States from points other than public stockyards, some of which are inspected at public stockyards while stopping for feed, water, and rest en route.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
Washington, D. C.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, FEBRUARY 29, 1956

With the exception of pork and canned meats, holdings of all meat items were reduced during February. Stocks of beef, down to 196 million pounds by February 29, were 41 million pounds above the holdings of a year ago but 8 million pounds under average for this date. Pork holdings were up 32 million pounds from the month before to total 513 million pounds by the end of February. This seasonal gain was 28 percent greater than average but not much larger than the February gain of the year before. Total pork stocks were still under average by 14 percent and below last year's holdings by 4 percent. Holdings of other meats, including canned meats, were up 9 million pounds to 173 million. A year earlier stocks amounted to 153 million pounds while the average for this date is 152 million pounds.

UNITED STATES STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, FEB. 29, 1956 WITH COMPARISONS

(Includes holdings in public, private and semi-private cold storage houses and meat packing plants)

Commodity	Feb. 29 1956	Jan. 31 1956	Feb. 28 1955	Feb. 28 1951-55 av.	Feb. 29, 1956 as % of Jan. 1956	Feb. 1955	Feb. 28 5-yr. av.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.			
BEEF:							
Frozen	185,273	201,851	146,208	192,420	92	127	96
In cure, cured & smkd.	10,565	10,420	8,190	10,926	101	129	97
Total	195,838	212,271	154,398	203,346	92	127	96
PORK:							
Frozen	380,509	358,427	383,344	401,093	106	99	95
Dry salt, in cure and cured	28,917	29,568	35,761	42,660	98	81	68
Other, in cure, cured and smoked	103,728	93,607	112,987	153,709	111	92	67
Total	513,154	481,602	532,092	597,462	107	96	86
OTHER MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS:							
Sausage & sausage room products	15,693	16,095	13,486	16,279	98	116	96
Frozen lamb & mutton	9,664	10,566	8,743	12,953	91	111	75
Frozen veal	16,287	18,045	13,847	13,641	90	118	119
Canned meats & meat products	66,946	50,899	61,663	49,683	132	109	135
All edible offal	64,644	68,187	55,552	59,817	95	116	108
Total other meats & meat products	173,234	163,792	153,291	152,373	106	113	114
Total all meats	882,226	857,665	839,781	953,181	103	105	93
Lard, rendered & refined 1/	2/	183,615	137,882	149,892	--	--	--
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS 3/							
Pork	6,131	7,514	10,161	2/	82	60	--
Beef	5,920	8,336	7,546	2/	71	78	--

1/ In dry and cold storage as reported by Bureau of Census.

2/ Not available.

3/ Government holdings are included in the totals and consist of reported stocks held by U.S.D.A., the Armed Services and other Government agencies.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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SHEEP AND LAMBS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 231

Choice slaughter ewes sold at midwest markets from $3.50-8.50. Good and Choice feeder lambs brought $18.00-20.00, some ewe lambs $20.25.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Price advances were recorded on mature slaughter livestock at most Far West terminals for the second successive week. Slaughter steers and heifers sold steady to $1.50 higher; cows steady to 50¢ higher; vealers and slaughter calves $1.00-4.00 lower in the Northwest, 25-50¢ higher at Denver, mostly steady at other terminals; stocker and feeder steers and heifers firm to 50¢ higher; barrows and gilts steady to 25¢ or more higher; slaughter lambs steady to strong at most points, 25-50¢ lower at Denver, and 50¢ lower in So. San Francisco. Good to average-Choice fed steers brought $17.00-19.25 at most western terminals, some average to high-Choice $19.50-20.65, one load Prime 1204# $21.50 at Los Angeles. Good and Choice slaughter heifers cleared from $15.00-19.25; Utility and Commercial cows $10.00-15.00; Canners and Cutters $8.00-11.50. Good and Choice vealers and slaughter calves under 350# bulked from $20.00-25.00, few Choice vealers $26.00-28.00. Medium and Good stocker and feeder steers brought $15.00-17.00, mixed Good and Choice $17.50-18.00, Choice yearlings at Stockton $19.00-19.25. Good and Choice steer calves cashed from $17.50-20.50.

Good and Choice slaughter steers sold out of California feedlots from $18.50-20.25, scattered loads high-Choice $20.50-21.00, four loads high-Choice 950-975# contracted during the week at $21.50, 2 loads for immediate delivery, balance by April 15. Good and Choice fed heifers cleared from $16.00-18.50, few loads high-Choice $19.00-19.50. One sizable string of grass slaughter steers was contracted in northern California for early June delivery at $18.00, with 500 head at $17.00. Around 80 head of Good 900# feeder steers sold for immediate delivery at $17.00, two loads 575# stockers $17.50; 250 head Good and Choice Nevada steer calves $19.00, 300 head heifer calves same grades $17.00; slaughter steer and heifer sales generally FOB ranch at 4% shrink, other quoted sales from 2-3% shrink.

Mixed U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold late at $14.50 at S. San Francisco; $15.00 at Stockton; $14.00-14.75 at Los Angeles; $14.25-15.50 Portland; $14.00-14.50 Spokane; $13.75-14.50 Ogden; $13.50-14.25 Denver. Choice 93-111# wooled slaughter lambs brought $19.25-19.50 late at Denver; Good and Choice at Western terminals $17.00-19.25. Several thousand spring slaughter lambs in the San Joaquin Valley sold to slaughterers for delivery prior to Easter mainly at $20.00.